

Albert Walker; Maurice Cooley, Director of African American Programs at Marshall University; Dr. Shari Williams-Clarke, Vice President for Marshall University Multicultural Affairs; Loretta Young, Vice President for Development at Concord University; and Roslyn Clark-Artis, Executive Vice President at Mountain State University, are an inspiration to us all.

Too often, the history of black Americans is not fully taught or remembered. With the indomitable spirit of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and new leaders such as President Barack Obama, African Americans in southern West Virginia and across the country are making great progress. Let us take this Black History Month to celebrate the African American contributions to the greatness of West Virginia and to commend those carrying on this proud tradition of service today.

HONORING MR. ERNIE CHAMBERS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to honor a great constituent in my district, Mr. Ernie Chambers.

Ernie Chambers is a former Nebraska State Senator and current member of the Omaha Learning Community.

As a member of the Nebraska legislature, he served longer than any other member had and up until this year, he was the Legislature's lone African-American member. As a State Senator, he was a voice for the residents of north Omaha and he always asked the tough questions. While some of his colleagues might have disagreed with him from time to time, he earned their respect and demonstrated a great passion in his work.

Mr. Chambers is a graduate of Omaha Central High School and Creighton University School of Law. It is my pleasure to recognize State Senator Ernie Chambers and thank him for his years of service to the great city of Omaha.

TRIBUTE TO COACH JIM CALHOUN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the most recent achievement of one of college basketball's premier coaches. On February 25, 2009, the University of Connecticut's Men's Basketball program celebrated a 93-82 win over Marquette University. Not just a typical victory in another impressive season for the Huskies, this victory was also the 800th in the career of Coach Jim Calhoun. Coach Calhoun is just the seventh coach in men's college basketball to reach this historic milestone, joining legends such as Bobby Knight, Dean Smith and Adolph Rupp.

Coach Calhoun's career as a basketball coach began in 1966 when he served as an assistant at his alma mater, American International College in Springfield, MA. Calhoun stayed at AIC until 1968 when he became a high school basketball coach in Old Lyme,

Connecticut. He stayed in the high school ranks for a brief period until 1972, when he assumed the role of head coach at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. Calhoun's squad came to dominate the Eastern College Athletic Conference, leading those Huskies to a 248-137 record in 14 seasons that included 5 league tournament championships and 4 outright regular season championships.

In May of 1986, Coach Calhoun assumed the role of head basketball coach at the University of Connecticut. Since that time, UConn has become the Big East Conference's premier basketball program. Just two years later, Coach Calhoun won his first national title when UConn defeated Ohio State in the 1988 National Invitational Tournament with Phil Gamble and future NBA all star Clifford Robinson leading the way.

During his 22+ seasons at the University of Connecticut, Coach Calhoun has led the Huskies to ten Big East regular season titles, six Big East tournament titles, an NIT title and 2 NCAA titles in 1999 and 2004. During his tenure, Calhoun has coached more than two dozen players who have moved onto the NBA, including perennial stars such as Ray Allen, Richard Hamilton and Emeka Okafor.

Coach Calhoun has received countless awards and has been consistently recognized for his remarkable career. In 2005, Coach Calhoun's career came full circle as he returned to Springfield, Massachusetts, where he started his basketball career. There, Coach Calhoun joined the ranks of basketball's greats when he was enshrined in the Dr. James Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. Coach Calhoun is also a member of the American International College and Northeastern University Hall of Fame and has been awarded the John Wooden "Legends of Coaching Award" for his lifetime of service.

Coach Calhoun's positive contributions to Connecticut are not limited to the basketball court. He has contributed huge sums of personal wealth to hospitals, charities and civic causes—often times with little fanfare. He is a strong voice for "Coaches Against Cancer", advocating for a stronger national effort to cure cancer and raising private funds for research and treatment.

The most impressive contribution I believe was his willingness to publicly share his personal battle against three bouts of cancer—educating and inspiring patients and families all across America to fight this illness and continue with their regular lives.

For more than two decades, Coach Calhoun's coaching prowess has been well known to the people of eastern Connecticut. For those of us who have the honor of calling him our friend, and for the scores of Husky hoops fans across the state and the country, we congratulate Coach Jim Calhoun on this historic achievement and wish him well as he continues his leadership of our beloved Huskies.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JERIS LAMPKIN SMITH

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Jeris

Lampkin Smith on the occasion of her retirement from the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida's Probation Office after 32 years of service and dedication. Mrs. Lampkin Smith will retire from the position of Supervising United States Probation Officer in the State of Florida, and can look back on a proud career of service and distinction in community leadership.

A native Floridian, Mrs. Lampkin Smith graduated from Middleton High School in Tampa, and in order to further her education, she attended Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University and received a Bachelor of Science degree. On April 25, 1977, Mrs. Lampkin Smith was appointed the first African-American female probation officer by Chief United States District Judge C. Clyde Atkins. Ultimately, Mrs. Lampkin Smith became the first person of color to be promoted to the position of Supervising United States Probation Officer in the State of Florida. She was not joined by any other African-American officer until 1983.

Mrs. Lampkin Smith had a distinguished 32 year career working for the Southern District of Florida Probation Office. The United States Probation Office in the Southern District of Florida is one of 94 federal judicial districts nationwide. U.S. Probation officers play an integral role in the administration of justice by protecting our communities by monitoring offenders and enforcing Court Orders, as well as promoting positive individual change by addressing offenders' needs through effective use of community resources.

In an effort to compliment her professional achievements, Mrs. Lampkin Smith is involved with various organizations such as a charter member and former president of the Dade County Chapter of The Links, Incorporated; life member and Regional Foundational Member at Large for Jack & Jill of America, Foundation, Washington, DC; member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; and life member of the Black United States Probation and Pretrial Services Association and NAACP.

This public servant is married to Herbert B. Smith and has one daughter, Courtney Smith. In retirement, Mrs. Lampkin Smith plans to continue to develop her new career as an event planner, travel the world and play golf with her husband.

Mrs. Lampkin Smith is an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation. It is with deep respect and admiration that I commend Mrs. Jeris Lampkin for her 32 years of service to the South Florida area, and wish her and her family the very best in retirement.

THE STUDENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on January 28, 2009, I reintroduced the Student Protection Act, a measure aimed at protecting our Nation's classrooms from repeat sexual predators within our school systems.

The Student Protection Act requires uniform reporting requirements for eligible school system employees accused of sexual misconduct against a student, consistent with established guidelines for reporting child abuse; it requires

a central body in each state to be responsible for receiving and investigating allegations of sexual misconduct by school employees; and it creates a nationwide database of school employees sanctioned by the state for sexual misconduct—thus enabling state, local, and private school officials to ensure offenders remain out of the classroom.

Accounts of teacher sexual misconduct have inundated headlines across our country. In 2004, a study required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 reported that an estimated 4.5 million children are subject to sexual misconduct by a school employee sometime between kindergarten and 12th grade—that's nearly 1 in 10 students that are targets of sexual misconduct during their school career. As far as I'm concerned, that's one too many.

Further, a 2007 seven-month Associated Press investigation found a total of 2,570 educators across the nation were punished for sexual misconduct from 2001–2005, representing about a quarter of all educator misconduct cases in that time period.

More than a dozen states have considered legislation to strengthen laws for screening and reporting of sexual misconduct by educators last year—many of which became law. However, without adopting systematic policies and procedures at the national level all states remain vulnerable when hiring school employees from states with mediocre reporting procedures and lackluster ethical standards. Our classrooms deserve much more than a piecemeal effort that leaves our nation's schools exposed to predators moving from state to state.

Ernie Allen, President and CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children said, "This Act brings long-overdue recognition to the problem of child sexual exploitation in the school system."

It is abundantly clear that the system we have in place has failed our students—repeatedly. Before we read about another teacher assaulting yet another student or another classroom shaken by another breach of trust, now—not later—let us give schools the tools they need to keep repeat sexual offenders from preying on students within the very institutions that should be a safe-haven for our children.

We have a unique opportunity before us to empower educators and parents nationwide and make it crystal clear we will not allow those who would prey on young, vulnerable minds to compromise the integrity of our school system and tarnish an honorable profession. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, ensuring the safety of our children.

PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Peace Corps Week and the 48th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

While much has changed in the world since the Peace Corps was created in 1961, its goals and ideals of promoting goodwill remain. Volunteers continue to provide invaluable services in over 70 countries, serving as educators, technology consultants, environmental specialists, and business advisors.

At a time when extremism is sweeping through much of the globe, more than ever, we need these dedicated individuals.

As the former chairman of the House Subcommittee on Africa, I have had the opportunity to meet with several Peace Corps Volunteers around the continent. The commitment these men and women have shown is extremely impressive and is to be commended.

These Americans, approximately 7,800 of them, are serving their country in often extremely difficult conditions. They live at the same level of the people they serve, and uniquely connect with them. Since its inception, over 195,000 Volunteers have worked in over 139 countries.

In my district, I'm proud to say that I have thirteen Peace Corps Volunteers, stationed around the world. Christina Balch in Lesotho, Joan Bash in Bulgaria, Joseph Flores in Macedonia, Mamie Florin in Gambia, Wendy Jones in Kenya, Olenka Langen in Nicaragua, Justin Lee in the Dominican Republic, Dulce Martinez in China, Lacey Monson in Thailand, Carmen Munoz in Guatemala, Joan Ngo in Paraguay, Stacey Ngo in the Dominican Republic, and Leala Ruangtragool in Honduras, are each to be commended for their service.

Madam Speaker, I have seen the valuable work the Peace Corps is doing in Africa, and throughout the world. It deserves our recognition and support.

A TRIBUTE TO ABISHEK JAIN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abishek Jain, a student at Falls Church High School in Falls Church, VA and recipient of this year's In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation Scholarship.

AJ has earned a reputation as a mindful and mature leader in his community. He is president of the Falls Church High School Science Club, which he founded in the 10th grade, and through which he founded, planned, and operated the school's first successful school recycling program. Today this program is staffed by 30 volunteers and has 200 collection locations.

He is a devoted scholar. His current overall grade point average is 3.86 and this semester he is enrolled in four Advanced Placement courses. He further contributes to the intellectual life of his school as President of the National Math Honor Society and Treasurer of the National Spanish Honor Society. In furthering his studies as an undergraduate AJ plans to pursue a degree in engineering.

AJ's studies are balanced by his athletic and artistic endeavors. He is a member of the Varsity Tennis and Indoor Track Teams and is a former member of the Varsity Swim and Dive Team and Junior Varsity Golf Team. In addition, he has a genuine passion for the violin, which he has played for the past nine years. In this capacity he is a member and former vice-president of the Chamber Orchestra.

AJ still finds time to volunteer in the community beyond his school. He has spent many hours over the past four years working at the Bailey's Crossroads' Homeless Shelter where

he is a coordinator charged with gathering food and volunteers to feed the area's homeless.

His school counselor notes, "What impresses me most about AJ is how grounded he is. He pushes himself to achieve, yet is also aware of his limitations. Since elementary school he has been involved with a cultural organization, the Chinmaya Mission. It is here where AJ has developed a spiritual sense and wisdom beyond his years."

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending AJ for setting such a strong example in his community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I secured as part of H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman GEOFF DAVIS

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Buffalo Trace/Gateway Narcotics Task Force

Address of Requesting Entity: 908 Kenton Station Drive, Maysville, KY 41056

Description of Request: Appropriate \$280,000 to continue the operations of the Buffalo Trace/Gateway Narcotics Task Force to collect, analyze and process information through an organized, coordinated investigation, with the assistance of local, State, and federal agencies, to discourage and eliminate the use and sale of illegal narcotics.

The Task Force will benefit law enforcement in the investigation of all types of crimes related to drug trafficking and drug abuse which may include thefts, robberies and homicides. Local law enforcement does not have the funds to strengthen and investigate drug related crimes in some of our communities.

The Task Force will impact the drug abuse and drug related deaths in the ten county area in which it covers, as well as provide the offender's with treatment and recovery. Local governments and law enforcement agencies provide matching funds to support operations of the task force.

Requesting Member: Congressman GEOFF DAVIS

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oldham County Sheriff's Office

Address of Requesting Entity: 100 W. Jefferson Street, La Grange, KY 40031

Description of Request: Appropriate \$90,000 to acquire upgraded equipment to assist the Sheriff's Department in responding to a variety of law enforcement situations within the community. Needed equipment includes: dual antenna radar units, handheld radar units, Mobile Data Terminals, tazers, four wheel drive police vehicle, GPS positioning units, PD6500 security scanner, and other appropriate equipment